



# Maryland Agriculture Data

## Weekly Crop and Weather Report



MD-CW0103

APRIL 7, 2003

### Excess Moisture Delays Spring Plantings

Many crop plantings are delayed this year due to excess moisture from the snow and rain received in the region this past winter. Some vegetable crops, like watermelons, cucumbers, and canteloupes, are normally being planted at this time but not this year because of wet field conditions. Farmers had an average of 4.2 **days suitable for field work** for the week ending April 6<sup>th</sup> which they took advantage of to begin spring plantings. Green peas are progressing well with 58% planted. Small amounts of sweet corn and tomatoes have been planted. Fruits such as strawberries, peaches, and apples are beginning to bloom.

Small grains are in fair to good condition with **winter wheat** rated 4 percent very poor, 9 percent poor, 44 percent fair, 32 percent good, and 11 percent excellent. **Barley** condition is 3 percent very poor, 8 percent poor, 41 percent fair, 36 percent good, and 12 percent excellent.

Pastures are in good condition due to the moisture received during this past winter. **Pasture** condition is 13 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 46 percent good, and 12 percent excellent. **Hay supplies** dwindled over the winter and most are in short supply. Hay supplies are 34 percent very short, 29 percent short, and 37 percent adequate.

Many areas received enough moisture to fill ponds and reservoirs. **Topsoil moisture** is 1 percent short, 48 percent adequate, and 51 percent surplus. **Subsoil moisture** is 1 percent short, 72 percent adequate, and 27 percent surplus.

### MARYLAND'S CROP PROGRESS FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 6, 2003 (PERCENT)

| ITEM                  | THIS WEEK | LAST WEEK | LAST YEAR | AVERAGE 1998-2002 |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------------|
| Planting Progress:    |           |           |           |                   |
| Potatoes              | 20        | --        | 37        | 30                |
| Green Peas            | 58        | --        | 40        | 37                |
| Sweet Corn            | 5         | --        | 7         | 7                 |
|                       |           | --        |           |                   |
| Fruit Crops Blooming: |           |           |           |                   |
| Apples                | 4         | --        | 3         | 12                |
| Peaches               | 25        | --        | 22        | 33                |
| Strawberries          | 4         | --        | 9         | 15                |

### SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 6, 2003 (PERCENT)

| Condition        | Very Short | Short | Adequate | Surplus |
|------------------|------------|-------|----------|---------|
| Topsoil Moisture | -          | 1     | 48       | 51      |
| Topsoil (2002)   | 4          | 44    | 51       | 1       |
| Subsoil Moisture | -          | 1     | 72       | 27      |
| Subsoil (2002)   | 38         | 46    | 16       | -       |

Holly Smith  
Agricultural Statistician

Norman Bennett  
State Statistician

Precipitation and Departures From Normal, Through March 31, 2003

|                 | March 2003    |                          | Since January 1, 2003        |                          |
|-----------------|---------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| County          | Precipitation | Departure<br>From Normal | Accumulated<br>Precipitation | Accumulated<br>Departure |
| <b>Maryland</b> |               |                          |                              |                          |
| Allegany        | 3.0           | -0.6                     | 10.6                         | 1.8                      |
| Anne Arundel    | 4.6           | 0.6                      | 13.3                         | 3.0                      |
| Baltimore       | 4.3           | 0.4                      | 13.0                         | 2.9                      |
| Calvert         | 4.8           | 0.9                      | 14.8                         | 4.9                      |
| Caroline        | 3.5           | -0.4                     | 12.5                         | 2.1                      |
| Carroll         | 3.6           | -0.2                     | 11.8                         | 2.2                      |
| Cecil           | 4.8           | 0.9                      | 12.0                         | 2.1                      |
| Charles         | 4.5           | 0.6                      | 14.7                         | 4.8                      |
| Dorchester      | 4.0           | 0.0                      | 13.1                         | 2.4                      |
| Frederick       | 3.2           | -0.6                     | 12.0                         | 2.5                      |
| Garrett         | 2.1           | -1.9                     | 6.7                          | -3.4                     |
| Harford         | 4.5           | 0.4                      | 12.4                         | 2.1                      |
| Howard          | 4.1           | 0.2                      | 12.8                         | 2.8                      |
| Kent            | 4.3           | 0.3                      | 12.6                         | 2.4                      |
| Montgomery      | 4.0           | 0.3                      | 13.6                         | 4.0                      |
| Prince George's | 4.5           | 0.8                      | 14.9                         | 5.4                      |
| Queen Anne's    | 3.9           | 0.1                      | 12.8                         | 2.7                      |
| Somerset        | 5.1           | 0.8                      | 12.9                         | 1.8                      |
| St. Mary's      | 4.8           | 0.8                      | 14.7                         | 4.7                      |
| Talbot          | 3.6           | -0.5                     | 13.7                         | 3.1                      |
| Washington      | 3.3           | -0.2                     | 11.0                         | 2.1                      |
| Wicomico        | 4.8           | 0.5                      | 13.4                         | 2.1                      |
| Worcester       | 5.5           | 1.1                      | 13.7                         | 2.3                      |
| <b>Delaware</b> |               |                          |                              |                          |
| New Castle      | 4.9           | 4.9                      | 12.4                         | 6.6                      |
| Kent            | 3.5           | -0.6                     | 12.1                         | 1.8                      |
| Sussex          | 3.6           | -0.6                     | 11.6                         | 0.7                      |

Source: National Weather Service